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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8, as amended, remain herein.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 4-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim(s) from which they depend.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of former claim 2 and allowable former claim 4, thereby making claims 1, 3 and 5-8 allowable. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

This Amendment places all claims 1, 3 and 5-8 in condition for allowance, and surely in better condition for any appeal. Thus, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are respectfully requested.

1. Claims 1-3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yano U.S. Patent 6,464,545. Claims 1-3 and 8 are allowable for the reasons explained herein, thereby mooting the rejection.

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All claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1, 3 and 5-8 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

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Date


Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177
Robert N. Wieland
Registration No. 40,225

RWP:RNW/mhs

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PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805
Telephone: (703) 739-0220